

Meaning Switchboard



Directions: Read each sentence. Choose the correct meaning of the **bolded** word based on context. Circle the letter of the best answer. Then underline one clue in the sentence that supports your choice.

1. The editorial urged the board to **table** the proposal until the cost estimates were verified.
 - A) to set something aside for later discussion
 - B) to bring something forward for immediate debate
 - C) a chart that organizes information into rows and columns
 - D) a piece of furniture with legs and a flat top
2. After the surprise schedule change, the student council tried to **field** questions from frustrated students in the hallway.
 - A) an open area of land
 - B) to place players in positions for a sport
 - C) a branch of study or discipline
 - D) to receive and respond to questions or requests
3. The scientist warned that one trial does not **settle** the hypothesis; the results must be replicated.
 - A) to pay a debt
 - B) to sink slowly
 - C) to resolve or decide conclusively
 - D) to become comfortable in a new place
4. The coach told the team to **capitalize** on the opponent's mistakes during the final minutes.
 - A) to name a city as a capital
 - B) to write using capital letters
 - C) to invest money in a business
 - D) to take advantage of an opportunity
5. The historian argued that the treaty created a fragile **balance** between national security and civil liberties.
 - A) a device used to weigh objects
 - B) an even distribution or stable equilibrium
 - C) a remaining amount in an account
 - D) the ability to avoid falling

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6. The principal asked for a **brief** summary of the incident before meeting with the family.
 - A) short in length or time
 - B) a legal document submitted to a court
 - C) underwear
 - D) a set of instructions
7. During the lab, students used a **base** to neutralize the acid solution.
 - A) the lowest part of something
 - B) a main place of operations for an organization
 - C) a compound that can accept hydrogen ions
 - D) the starting point in a game
8. The author's calm tone **belied** the seriousness of the conflict described in the chapter.
 - A) revealed openly
 - B) gave a false impression about
 - C) corrected an error in
 - D) repeated with emphasis
9. The witness gave a **statement** that contradicted earlier accounts.
 - A) a claim or declaration
 - B) a summary of money in an account
 - C) a thesis sentence at the start of an essay
 - D) a fashion trend
10. The teacher reminded the class that one strong quote can **anchor** an entire argument.
 - A) a heavy object used to keep a ship from drifting
 - B) a person who reads the news on television
 - C) a type of knot
 - D) to secure or hold firmly in place
11. The student's conclusion was **flat**, lacking energy and specificity.
 - A) level and smooth
 - B) boring or emotionless
 - C) an apartment unit
 - D) having a tire with no air
12. The committee agreed the new policy would **address** the attendance issue directly.
 - A) to speak to
 - B) a location on a street
 - C) to deal with or respond to a problem
 - D) to deliver a formal speech